

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FAUNA OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 2.

---

A New Freshwater Tortoise from the Murchison River.

---

By L. GLAUERT, F.G.S.; Western Australian Museum, Perth.  
Communicated by permission of the Trustees.

---

Read: 11th July, 1922.

During my visit to Milly Milly Station, Murchison River, a few months ago as the guest of Mr. D. Mulcahy, I collected two specimens of the Long-necked Tortoise inhabiting Milly Milly Creek.

The two carapaces indicated that the animals differed considerably from the known Western Australian *Chelodina oblonga*,<sup>1</sup> and suggested that I had discovered a new species. Efforts were therefore made to capture living examples, unfortunately without success, and I had to return to Perth without a perfect specimen.

Friends at the Homestead have subsequently forwarded two living tortoises, the larger of which, R1000, is described in this paper.

The Long-necked Tortoises (genus *Chelodina*), whose range is confined to the Australian region, have the neck longer than the dorsal vertebral column; no barbels on the chin; carapace with (normally) five vertebral plates, four pairs of costals, a marginal nuchal, and a pair of pygals; plastron with an intergular not reaching the margin, and six pairs of plates (The Animals of Australia, Lucas and Le Souëf). The extremely long neck and very short tail, as well as the position of the intergular plate, distinguish this genus from the other Australian fresh water tortoises—*Emydura* and *Elseya*.

The four specimens R911, R912, R1000, and R1106, show remarkably slight variation in the proportions and arrangements of the horny plates, differing in this respect from the south-western *Chelodina oblonga*, in which no two specimens are even approximately alike.

---

(1) *Chelodina oblonga*, Gray, in Grey's Trav. Aust. II., 1841, p. 446, Pl. VII.

The carapace is depressed, elliptical, slightly broadened behind, with indications of a broad shallow depression along the vertebral region; nuchal shield smaller than the marginals, much longer than broad, first vertebral shield longer and broader than the rest, fourth not shorter than the third, but narrower than the other members of the series, fifth both longer and wider than the second, third and fourth. Plastron about twice as long as wide, feebly angulated laterally, its greatest width in front of the bridge, considerably shorter and narrower than the carapace, the posterior notch which is angular in young forms tends to lose its sharpness in the adult; intergular longer than the pectorals or the femorals, fully twice as long as the suture between the pectorals; suture between the anals longer than that between the femorals.

Head, neck, and limbs as figured, neck and sides of head tubercular. Digits broadly webbed, a series of transverse lamellæ on the upper surface of the fore limb and on the lower surface of the hind limb.

Dark olive-brown above, plastron and lower surface of marginals yellowish; the younger specimens have narrow dark brown margins to the sutures on the under surface as in *Chelodina longicollis*,<sup>2</sup> but these markings are quite absent on the larger specimen, R1000. The general colour of the soft parts in the living animal is dark olive brown above and cream below. After death the colours fade.

The new species resembles *Chelodina expansa*<sup>3</sup> in the shape of its carapace and plastron, but differs from it in the proportions of the shields on the plastron. On the other hand it resembles *Chelodina novae-guineae*<sup>4</sup> in the shape of the plastron and proportions of its shields, but differs in the shape of the carapace. Apparently there are no transverse lamellæ on the under surface of the hind limb of *C. expansa* and *C. novae-guineae*.

Measurement of carapace, length 212 mm., breadth 184 mm.

*Habitat*.—Freshwater pools and creeks, Milly Milly, Murchison River, W.A.

The name proposed for the new form, *Chelodina milly-milly-ensis*, is suggested by the locality where the specimens were obtained.

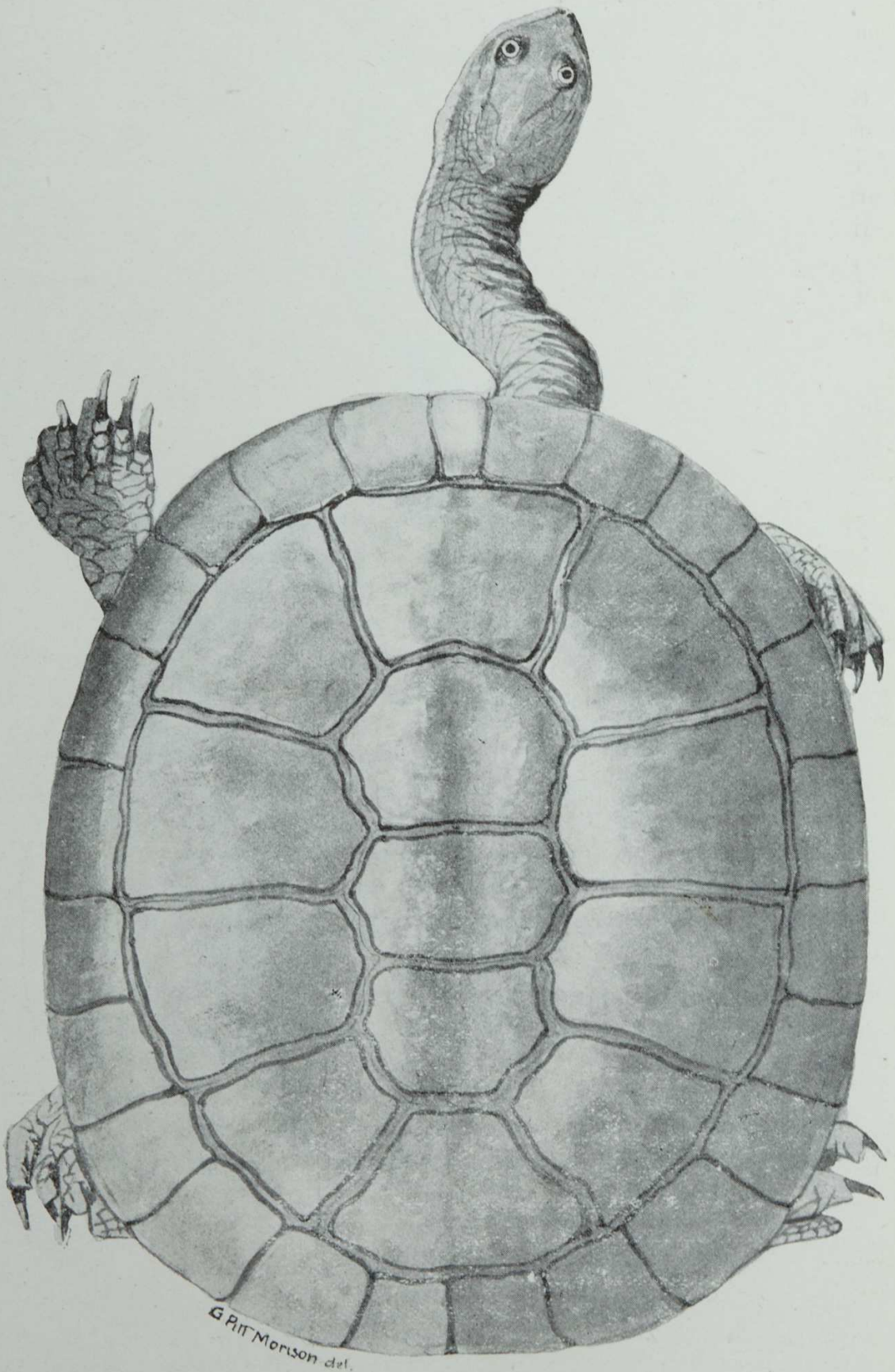
I am indebted to my colleague, Mr. G. Pitt Morison, for the excellent drawings illustrating this paper.

(2) Testudo longicollis, Shaw, Zool. III., 1802, p. 62, Pl. XVI.

(3) Chelodina expansa, Gray, P.Z.S., 1856 p. 370, Pl. XII.

(4) Chelodina novae-guineae, Bouleng. Ann. Mus., Genova (2) VI., 1888, p. 450, and Cat. Chelon, B. M., 1889, p. 215, Pls. V., VI.

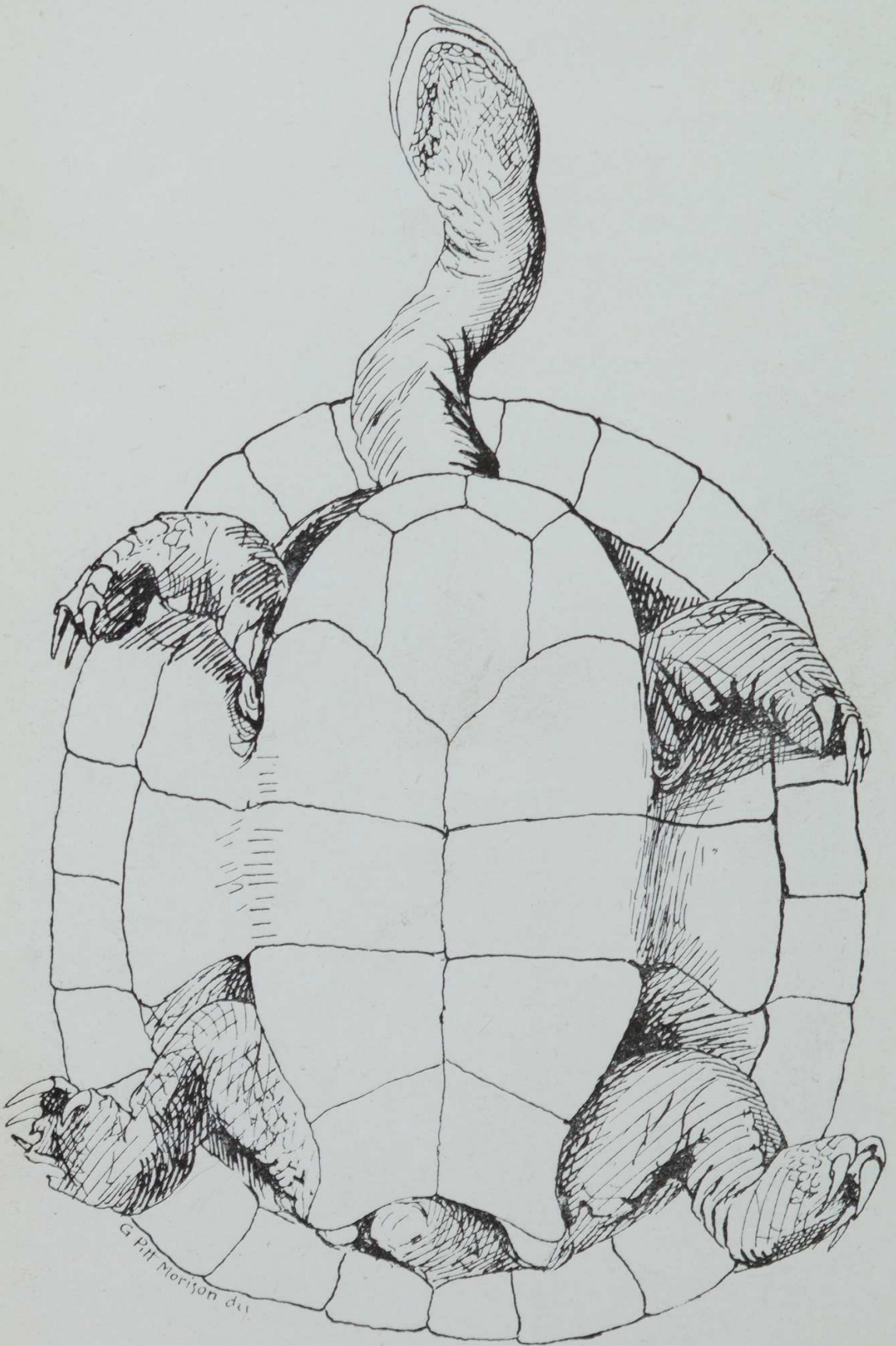
## Plate IV.



G. Pitt-Morison del.

*Chelodina Milly-millyensis* sp. nov.

Plate V.



*Chelodina Milly-millyensis* sp. nov.